

Ornaments don't just have to hang on the tree

This holiday season, decorate every room with beautiful ornaments

Each year the excitement builds when holiday decorating begins.

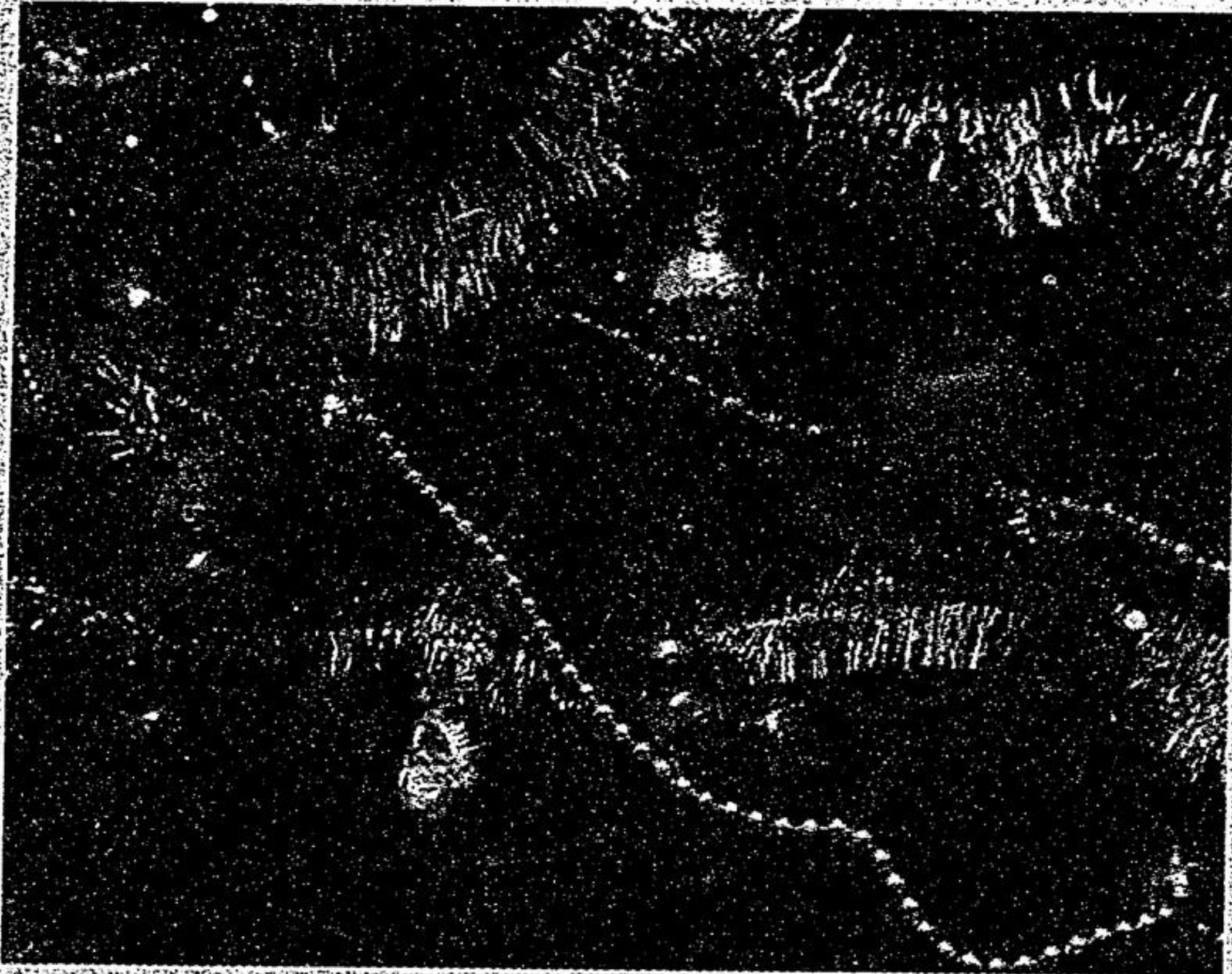
For avid ornament collectors, the heirloom keepsakes they unpack symbolize spiritual meaning, family traditions, nostalgia and cultural heritage longing to be shared and displayed.

According to Carlton Cards' research, Canadians rank decorating with ornaments as one of their all-time favourite holiday traditions.

Types of ornaments are as varied as the season's traditions. Conventional ornaments include crystal balls, Santa figurines and other Christmas-themed decorations.

Popular this year are nostalgic icons such as James Dean and Marilyn Monroe, and favourite licensed characters such as the Rugrats and Curious George.

Below are just a few creative ways to showcase and share ornaments this season.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Don't limit your Christmas ornaments to the tree - they can be used in every room in the house.

✓ Tie back curtains all around your home with ornaments. Substitute red, green or white ribbon instead of ornament hooks.

✓ Attach ornaments from pull cords on window shades.

✓ Add warmth to an empty fireplace by placing candles in a variety of sizes and shapes in the hearth.

Then, build an ornament scene on the fireplace mantle. Surround with holly or boughs.

For a wintry scene, pull cotton balls apart or recycle Halloween spider webbing.

✓ For a Christmas vignette atop the home entertainment centre or

armoire, tuck a few evergreen boughs and some branches of holly around a collection of ornaments.

✓ Add some interest to a velvet or ribbon bow by hanging ornaments from the bow's centre. Place bows on stair railings, banisters, doors or walls.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

✓ Create a special table setting with heirloom ornaments. Start with a festive centerpiece accented with several themed ornaments, for example all angels or Santa Claus ornaments.

✓ Co-ordinate this themed-look with napkin rings made by tying holiday ribbon around napkins. Offer guests a useful party favour by attaching the ornament to the ribbon. Use an ornament that relates to your guests' interests.

✓ For an intimate holiday soiree, substitute the traditional paper invitation with a three-dimensional ornament invitation. Attach a brief note to the ornament's string with all the party particulars.

LIVING ROOMS

✓ Hang mini-ornaments from the fringes and tassels of tablecloths and runners.

KITCHEN

✓ Use ornaments as festive touches on counters, shelves and window sills.

✓ Don't just focus your decorating efforts on areas at eye level. Add visual interest everywhere with holly berries, evergreen and ornaments on kitchen nooks and hanging lamps.

BED & BATH

✓ Bedrooms are an ideal location to display themed ornaments that reflect the room decor or the individual's special interest. Let children decorate their own tabletop trees or wreaths for their bedrooms featuring their favourite characters.

✓ Hang ornaments with ribbons from door knobs, cupboards and medicine cabinets.

✓ Create a festive mood in the bedroom by decorating a four-poster bed or headboard with garland, a wreath and themed ornaments.

Happy Holidays



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